

# The Physician's BOOKSHELF



**YEAR BOOK OF ANESTHESIA (1966-1967 Year Book Series)**—Edited by Stuart C. Cullen, M.D., Professor of Anesthesia and Dean, School of Medicine, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Year Book Medical Publishers, Incorporated, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, 1966. 397 pages, \$8.50.

The contents are composed of lucid abstracts of articles of interest to anesthesiologists published late in 1965 and early in 1966. Figures, diagrams and tables are reproduced for more adequate presentation of the pertinent data but references are provided only for the original publications. The small size of the volume containing 392 pages makes it easily transportable and readily accessible for reading periods of short duration. For those readers interested in review of a particular subject, the abstracts are grouped under 12 major headings, including circulation, respiration, nonvolatile drugs, inhalation agents and technics, relaxants, regional anesthesia, obstetrics, complications, hyperoxia, clinical problems and inhalation therapy.

The volume is a boon to those students and clinicians who desire to follow what is being written about anesthesiology but who do not have access to many of the original publications or whose reading time is limited.

JOHN W. PENDER, M.D.

\* \* \*

**CONSUMERS UNION REPORT ON FAMILY PLANNING—A Guide to Contraceptive Methods and Materials for Use in Child Spacing, Techniques for Improving Fertility, and Recognized Adoption Procedures—2nd Ed.**—Prepared by the Editors of Consumer Reports and the following distinguished consultants: Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D., President of the Planned Parenthood Federation, former Director of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Mount Sinai Hospital of New York, and former Clinical Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University; Aquiles J. Sobrero, M.D., Director, Margaret Sanger Research Bureau; and Rael Jean Isaac, teacher, editor, and author of *Adopting a Child Today*. Consumers Union of U.S., Inc., Mount Vernon, New York, 1966. 191 pages, \$1.75 (Paperback).

Many couples would profit from knowledge of the information contained in this inexpensive paperback book. The text is clearly written in nontechnical language which is easily understood by intelligent and inquisitive laymen. It is composed of three sections. Most patients will need to read only one section at a time although a few may have need for the information contained in each section at varying times in their married life.

The first section describes and rates contraceptive methods. The standard mechanical methods, the intra-uterine devices, and the various oral contraceptives are discussed in terms of initial costs, yearly costs, effectiveness, side-effects and practicality. The brands and products within these groups are comparatively rated.

The second section describes the common causes of infertility and provides brief descriptions of the tests and treatment programs employed for the diagnosis and therapy both for the male and female infertility.

The third section explains adoption procedures, the legal problems, the costs involved and the criteria by which various adoption agencies select adoptive parents. The advantages and disadvantages of private and agency adoptions are discussed in an unbiased fashion.

In each section there is a list of clinics or agencies which provide these services and referral centers which will direct a patient to the proper source.

The book can be highly recommended to that large segment of the population which expects accurate, factual answers to its questions about medical care. For some, the book may contain more information than really is required but each section is brief, clearly written and well worth the investment in time.

The highest recommendation one can give to this type of book is to order copies for distribution to patients. I placed my order.

EMMET J. LAMB, M.D.

\* \* \*

**SCLERODERMA**—By Marvin A. Sackner, M.D., Associate Director, Cardiopulmonary Laboratory, Mount Sinai Hospital, Miami Beach, Florida; Assistant Professor of Physiology and Medicine, University of Miami Medical School; American College of Physicians Research Fellow, 1961-1964. (Modern Medical Monographs: Irving S. Wright, M.D., Editor in Chief.) Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1966. 174 pages, \$13.75.

This is a monograph on the clinical aspects of scleroderma, a multisystem disease of interest to most physicians. The book reviews the many manifestations of the disease, and records the experience gained by the author in studying 65 patients at the Philadelphia General Hospital over a six-year period. Dr. Sackner is to be commended for recognizing the need for a single reference covering all aspects of scleroderma. As in most clinical reviews written by a single author the discussions are uneven. However, the chapters on the cardiopulmonary manifestations, representing the primary interest of the author, are excellent and thorough. The photographs which demonstrate the clinical, histological, and radiological features of the disease are quite useful. The bibliography consists of 516 references.

One criticism of the book is that recent biochemical and immunological advances in scleroderma have been scantily reviewed. The rather extensive literature concerning catecholamine and tryptophane metabolism receives only one paragraph. Immunologic changes, i.e., circulating antinuclear and antitissue antibodies and their possible relationship to pathogenesis, are not mentioned.

In the author's experience, 50 per cent of the patients died 2.2 years after diagnosis. This poor survival is contrary to the experience of most clinicians, and probably reflects the socio-economic group the author was dealing with. The chapter on therapy is quite concise, correct, and well written. The author reiterates that no therapeutic modality has altered the course of scleroderma, and

that therapy can only be directed toward symptomatic treatment of individual organ systems.

Those physicians with a particular interest in this disease may find it inadequate, with the exception of the chapters on cardiopulmonary manifestations. The book is recommended for the practicing physician who wishes a single reference containing a review of the clinical manifestations of scleroderma.

DENNY L. TUFFANELLI, M.D.

\* \* \*

**FRIEBOES/SCHONFELD COLOR ATLAS OF DERMATOLOGY**—By Joseph Kimmig, M.D., Professor of Dermatology, Chief of the Department of Dermatology and the Dispensary, and Michael Jänner, M.D., Research Assistant, Department of Dermatology and Dispensary, University Hospital, Hamburg. American Edition Translated and Revised by Herbert Goldschmidt, M.D., Assistant Professor of Clinical Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. With a Foreword to the American Edition by Donald M. Pillsbury, M.D., Professor and Former Chairman of the Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. 304 pages, with 927 figures, mostly in color. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1966. \$45.00

This is a handsome volume beautifully arranged and printed on pages measuring approximately 8x12". More than 75 per cent of its space is devoted to photographs, all but seven of which are in color. On the average, the reproductions are excellent. With rare exceptions, they serve their purpose of helping one to learn the clinical picture of the disease represented. The diagnosis and a note of two or three lines emphasizing the salient diagnostic features of the condition are printed under each photograph.

There is a table of contents which divides dermatological disorders into 22 groups. Under each group, the individual conditions are listed and the pages in the text on which they are discussed are noted.

The discussions are necessarily brief, but are most valuable. The name, common synonyms, incidence, etiology, character of primary and secondary lesions, distribution, course and sequelae are all mentioned where appropriate. The written text for each group of diseases immediately precedes their photographs. This makes for easy reference in studying a particular dermatosis and related conditions.

The index refers one not only to the text pages but also to the pages on which photographs are presented.

I find this atlas very much worth having. I believe other dermatologists will also wish to have it. It should be valuable in the libraries of medical schools and dermatological clinics and training centers. It would be a useful and popular volume in hospital staff libraries throughout the country.

The cost may discourage some individual physicians who otherwise would like it. However, considering the expense of producing an atlas devoted largely to color reproductions, this is understandable.

H. V. ALLINGTON, M.D.

\* \* \*

**MENTAL HEALTH IN A CHANGING COMMUNITY**—Based on a Symposium Jointly Sponsored by the San Francisco Association for Mental Health and the Department of Continuing Education in Medicine and The Health Sciences, University of California Medical Center—Edited by Reed Brockbank, M.D., and Dorothy Westby-Gibson, Ed.D. Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York and London, 1966. 163 pages, \$6.50.

This book is a real sleeper. While at first glance it looks like just another symposium on mental health put into book form, with all the expected pro forma contributors saying what they are supposed to for public consumption, instead we find a spirited and trenchant look at the changing community and the reciprocal changes induced in the studying professions of this changing community. The physical smallness of the book is deceptive for its scope is encyclopedic. Vital issues are addressed in this book and although not systematically dealt with they are raised and aired with clarity; both sides are often forcefully presented with either cogent arguments or weighty clinical evidence. Many of the issues revolve around the need to establish and make explicit normative values of adaptation that are inherent in different phases of life. Is the study and promotion of values the proper domain for the mental health profession? Whose responsibility is mental health? Where does helpfulness end and intrusion begin? Are mental health people supposed to change the whole fabric of our society? In essence, where are the boundaries of the mental health responsibility in this changing community? If we can establish the boundaries of our domain, who does what to whom? And who are the people that compose the mental health profession—are they all people who have contact with other people in a formal role as might be presumed from the inclusion of educators, lawyers and ministers in this forum?

With a striking clinical orientation even in the more theoretical appearing papers, this book approaches these problems in the context of the mental health problems of the people served. The centrality of people, rather than the more abstract "community," keeps the book viable and vibrant. The book is a MUST for physicians who would like to know the problems and the issues of mental health in a changing community, without the comfort of easy answers.

ROGER L. GOULD, M.D.

